

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00570 210758Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
 ICA-20 /091 W
 -----121899 221029Z /21

R 201717Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4257
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 570

3.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR PBOR EFIS NS GY
SUBJ: GUYANA PROTEST NOTE LEAKS

REF: PARAMARIBO 521

1. BULK IF NOT ALL OF GUYANA'S PROTEST NOTE DELIVERED TO PRIME MINISTER ARRON BY GUYANA'S AMBASSADOR SAUL ON APRIL 12 HAS APPARENTLY REACHED THE LOCAL PRESS WITH ONE OF THE DUTCH-LANGUAGE DAILES, "DE WARE TIJD," PUBLISHING A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE APRIL 20 QUOTING EXTENSIVELY FROM WHAT PURPORTS TO BE THE TEXT OF THE NOTE. FOLLOWING ARE OUR INFORMAL TRANSLATIONS OF EXCERPTS FROM THAT ARTICLE WHICH LABELS THE NOTE AN "ARROGANT LETTER" AND ACCUSES GUYANA OF A "LACK OF GOOD FAITH."

2. QUOTE: THE LETTER IS IN CONNEXION WITH THE ARREST OF SIX GUYANESE FROM GUYANA STORES LTD. (BALATA DIVISION) ON THE CORANTIJN. ACCORDING TO THE LETTER, THEY WERE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00570 210758Z

SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO CRUEL AND INHUMAN TREATMENT WHILE PEACEFULLY CARRYING OUT THEIR ACTIVITIES ON MARCH 4 AND WERE TAKEN PRISONER. THE ARMED SURINAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE THEREBY CLEARLY ACTED OUTSIDE THEIR TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION, ACCORDING TO THE LETTER.

3. QUOTE. THE LETTER SAYS THAT THE PROVOCATIVE INCIDENT,

IN ADDITION TO A WAVE OF ARBITRARY ARRESTS OF GUYANESE CITIZENS WHO HAVE TRADITIONALLY FISHED IN THE CORANTIJN, OPERATED FLOATING SHOPS, AND FLOATED LOGS DOWN THE RIVER, HAS LED TO AN ACUTE SITUATION OF TENSION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA AND THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAM AND WIDE-SPREAD INTENSE DISMAY AMONG THE GUYANESE PEOPLE.

4. QUOTE. THE LETTER CONTINUES: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THE ACTIONS OF THE AUTHORITIES IN QUESTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAM COMPRISE A CONTINUING THREAT NOT ONLY TO THE SUBSISTENCE BUT ALSO TO THE SAFETY OF THE CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA IN THIS AREA.

5. QUOTE. THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA ASKS ASSURANCES THAT SUCH INCIDENTS WILL NO LONGER OCCUR. IF THE SURINAMESE AUTHORITIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO ACT IN AN ARBITRARY AND HOSTILE MANNER, THIS WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO A BREAKING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA AND THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAM, A SITUATION FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAM WOULD HAVE TO BEAR THE FULL RESPONSIBILITY.

6. QUOTE. THE LETTER CONTINUES: THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA HAS SO FAR ACTED IN A VERY SELF-RESTRAINED MANNER WITH REGARD TO THESE HOSTILE ACTS. THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA
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PAGE 03 PARAMA 00570 210758Z

BELIEVES IT IS POSSIBLE TO SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS INCLUDING HONEST AND SINCERE NEGOTIATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA IS HOWEVER FORCED TO POINT OUT THAT IT HAS THE DUTY AND OBLIGATION TO SECURE ITS RIGHTFUL INTERESTS AND TO ASSURE THE PROTECTION OF ITS CITIZENS USING ALL THE MEANS AVAILABLE TO IT.

7. QUOTE. THE LETTER CONTINUES: THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA IS PREPARED TO RESUME THE DIALOGUE WHICH WAS BEGUN DURING THE VISITS OF THE FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO SURINAM IN FEBRUARY 1978. THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE HELD DURING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED VISITS, THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WERE REACHED AND THE DESIRES THEN DEMONSTRATED BY BOTH SIDES FOR A FRIENDLY SOLUTION OF THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH DEVELOPED OVER THE USE OF THE CORANTIJN RIVER ARE ALL POSITIVE ELEMENTS FOR REACHING AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A POSITIVE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GUYANA AND SURINAM. THAT IS WHY THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA PROPOSES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAM IN THIS SPIRIT A RESUMPTION OF THE DISCUSSION. IN THIS REGARD, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA IS PREPARED TO IMMEDIATELY RECEIVE A DELEGATION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF

SURINAM WHICH HAS A FULL MANDATE TO CONCLUDE AN
APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENT. UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, WATER BOUNDARIES, BORDER INCIDENTS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARAMAMA00570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780172-0508
Format: TEL
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780435/aaaabdfm.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ad6079aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PARAMARIBO 521
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2902975
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANA PROTEST NOTE LEAKS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, EFIS, NS, GY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ad6079aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014